



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
FOREST MANAGEMENT BUREAU
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MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign Assisted and Special Projects, and Director, in concurrent capacity

THRU : The OIC-Assistant Director

FROM : The Chief, Forest Resources Conservation Division

SUBJECT : **HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSION DURING THE SPECIAL NGP MEETING ON THE SECRETARY'S DIRECTIVES**

DATE : **MAY 07 2021**

This has reference to the highlights of discussion and agreements made during the special meeting on the Secretary Cimatu's Directives held on the 04th of May 2021 at 10:00 AM via Zoom Teleconference.

Secretary Roy A. Cimatu instructed to conduct a meeting with all Undersecretaries, all Assistant Secretaries, all the Regional Executive Directors (REDs), all Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officers (PENROs), all Community Environment and Natural Resources Officers (CENROs) and Directors of Policy, Planning Service and Financial and Management Service concerning the implementation of NGP.

Secretary Cimatu delivered his opening message highlighting that the field offices especially the CENROs have the responsibility on the success of the NGP. Further, he also mentioned that Philippine's lumber demand per year is approximately five (5) million cu. m. but the Philippines can only produce one (1) million cu. m. which are mostly from private plantation while the other four (4) million cu. m. are imported. Lastly, he mentioned the refocusing of ENGP implementation and for the preparation for the upcoming FY 2022 Budget Deliberation.

Attached herewith are the After Meeting Report for the highlights of discussion and the issues and suggestions raised in the chatbox during the virtual meeting.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS, PLEASE.

MA. TERESA G. AQUINO

*For. Fess
FRCO/NGP
Follow-up actions
on the issues/concerns
pls. provide.
MAG
10/21/21*

Name of Activity	SPECIAL NGP MEETING ON THE SECRETARY'S DIRECTIVES
Date and Time	04 May 2021 / 10:00AM to 2:00PM
Venue	Via Zoom Teleconference

Highlights of the Meeting

Secretary Roy A. Cimatú instructed to convene a special meeting on NGP to provide a venue for consultation and discussion with the DENR field offices, especially the REDs, PENROs and CENROs, on refocusing of ENGP implementation as well as to prepare for the upcoming FY 2022 Budget Deliberation. The Secretary emphasized that the success and failure of ENGP depends on the PENROs and CENROs who are the frontliners in ENG implementation.

To start the meeting, The Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign Assisted and Special Projects and Director, FMB in Concurrent Capacity Marcial C. Amaro, Jr. presented the Philippine forest cover, wood demand and supply, refocused ENGP objectives, Secretary Cimatú's directives, and proposed policy issuances. The estimated forest cover in the Philippines is 7,014,154 hectares. Among the Regions, Region 2 has the most forest cover with 1.05 Million hectares and among the provinces, Palawan has the most forest cover with 0.69 Million hectares. Moreover, the estimated wood demand of the Philippines (CY 2015) is 4.956 Million cubic meters while the average annual wood supply is 819,360 cubic meters, which is 17% of the wood demand. The country has a deficit of 83% in wood supply that resulted in the importation of wood. These two factors, forest cover and wood demand and supply are the basis for refocusing ENGP objectives. Based on the projected harvestable area and yield from NGP Bamboo and timber plantations, the country would be self-sufficient in terms of wood demand by the year 2034 if we plant 40,000 hectares of Bamboo and 35,000 hectares of Timber every year from 2021-2025.

The refocused ENGP objectives generally include increasing forest cover and enhancing biodiversity in protection forest and meeting the wood demand/deficit in production forest. In line with this, the directives of the Secretary include the following:

- Secure funding for enhancement planting of graduated NGP sites; prioritize CY 2011 plantations for FY 2022
- Enhance Urban Forestry
- Reactivate seedling production and distribution program
- Strict compliance on species choice/mix for planting
- Inventory: old reforestation projects/areas (BF/RA, BFD, DENR); LGU initiatives on forest/tree park establishment; private forest/tree plantations
- Deployment of *Greening Guardians* in all CENROs/Implementing PENROs
- Submission of best photos of "growing forests" in NGP plantations

Moreover, to implement these directives and achieve the objectives, the following policies were proposed, to wit:

- Enhancement of Graduated NGP sites (viz Delisting)
- Government Share in Harvest of NGP Plantations
- Program Support for Private Tree Plantations e.g. DENR-DBP MOA on DBP Tree Plantation Financing Program (August 2019), coverage of crops in NGP plantations in Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC)

- (Revisit) RA 9175 or Chainsaw Act of 2002 for stricter regulation of chainsaws

Below is the tabulated list of issues & concerns raised by concerned offices and the corresponding agreements & recommendation made:

Concerned Official	Issues and Concerns	Agreements/Response
Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change – Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh	Recommended action: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planting of fast-growing species in production areas. 2. Adoption of multiple cropping systems in the integrated pest management in agroforestry areas. 3. Use of fire and drought tolerant tree species in forest rehabilitation areas. 4. Refocus the rehabilitation on four major urban cities (Metro Manila, Metro Davao, Metro Cebu and Metro Iloilo). 5. Adoption of ICP (Advance digital technology application) for NGP monitoring and other digital remote sensing applications using ICP. 	The recommendations are already incorporated on the technical bulletins to be issued on the concerns.
R12 – Regional Executive Director – Atty. Felix S. Alicer	Dynamics between NCIP and DENR Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is required before DENR can establish plantations	Secretary instructed Usec. Jim Sampulna to create a team and have a dialogue with NCIP.
R5 – Regional Executive Director – Atty. Antonio A. Abawag	Formulate a policy to allow private and small companies to adopt graduated NGP sites with low survival rates	This concern is noted. This has already been considered but is still needed to be finalized.
R11 – Regional Executive Director – Bagani Fidel A. Evasco	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funding for the enhancement of graduated NGP areas turned over to POs 2. DENR to provide seedling requirement for DOTr franchise holders and the industry authority who are required to plant certain number of trees to 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider selecting sites which were not turned over to POs. If there are interested private players, it is encouraged to engage them specially if they have funds for it. 2. This concern is noted.

Concerned Official	Issues and Concerns	Agreements/Response
	<p>qualify registration and/or to be renewed.</p> <p>3. Seedlings to be distributed by DENR cannot be planted in Private Lands since based on COA, the DENR can only allot funds for public lands.</p> <p>4. Under EO 26, production sharing agreement was not mentioned.</p> <p>5. How is <i>Greening Guardians</i> different from “Bantay-Gubat”?</p>	<p>3. This is not standalone for DENR. It can also be tied with urban forestry. The issue with COA will be addressed by the management since it is clearly stated that NGP should be in forestland.</p> <p>4. This concern is noted.</p> <p>5. Greening guardians will have their own terms of reference. They can also be considered as force multipliers for the existing “Bantay-Gubat” but more focus on the establishment and maintaining plantations.</p>
R4B – PENRO Marinduque – Imelda M. Diaz	<p>1. Simplify the requirements for delisting to fast track the process of delisting of NGP sites.</p> <p>2. Regulate harvesting of timber in private plantations</p>	<p>1. Account the sites to be delisted. FMB will come up with guidelines and will try to make it simple upon consultation with concerned offices.</p> <p>2. Since the private plantations are the ones contributing to the wood requirement of the country, it is not encouraged to hinder these private companies.</p>
CAR – CENRO Alfonso Lista – John T. Langbis	Insufficient indigenous seeds collected from established SPA. Requests for technical support in handling indigenous species.	This concern is noted and would be handled by FMB and ERDB. The Secretary also instructed the PENRO to look over the forest cover adjacent to Magat Dam.
R13 – PENRO Dinagat – Agapito T. Patubo	Consideration of areas inside mining tenements. Provincial government of Dinagat is willing to invest in watershed areas.	The Secretary instructed R13 to coordinate with the mining companies and LGUs to adopt graduated NGP areas. Usec.

Concerned Official	Issues and Concerns	Agreements/Response
		Jonas emphasized that mining companies can be another source of funding for establishment of tree plantations.
R6 – CENRO Guimbal – Vicente T. Mellizas, Jr.	A MOA between DENR and Megaworld Iloilo was signed to adopt NGP Sites in Miagao for a 10-Year enhancement planting.	This initiative was noted.
R2 – PENRO Nueva Vizcaya – Edgar T. Martin	MOA with FCF and Oceana Gold for adoption of NGP sites. MOA with FCF for the establishment of Arboretum in Aritao.	This initiative was noted.
R13 – CENRO Tubay – Ruel A. Efren	Launching of “Project Green” to cater the planting material needs of private partners.	This initiative was noted.
R4B – CENRO San Jose – Efren L. Delos Reyes	Is it possible to just cover up to the seedling production in the 1st year and the plantation establishment would be in the 2nd year.	This concern was noted. The management will look into this together with the technical offices concerned.
R4B – CENRO Socorro – Anastacio A. Santos	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the assurance that the PO/contractor will benefit from the NGP site after the 3 years of establishing and maintaining the NGP area? Is the government share in harvest of NGP plantations applicable for timber only or is it also applicable for fruit trees? 2. Can we offer graduated NGP sites to be adopted by ECC holders for the management and maintenance? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Secretary’s directive is for the DENR to recover part of the investments. The fact that DENR provided the funding necessary to establish the plantation up to year 3, then from year 3 onwards it should be the investment of our partners. Regarding fruit trees, it is included but definitely the government sharing is not uniform. The top management will discuss this to be able to arrive at the most judicious and acceptable sharing scheme. 2. The other offices are already practicing this even without expressed guidelines. Yes, but should be within the rules and regulations that is why this will also be included in the policy and

Concerned Official	Issues and Concerns	Agreements/Response
		guidelines formulation.
R1 – PENRO Ilocos Sur – Rosemarie R. Jornacion	Request of Cong. DV Savellano for funding for the seedlings production and distribution in his district.	This concern is noted and will be further discussed with the management.
R12 – CENRO Banga – Abunawas B. Abduladsis	The CENRO initiated a MOA with the BLGU San Vicente for the establishment of a nursery to provide seedlings for private partners and other government agencies. The beneficiaries also practice intercropping of Abaca to plantations.	This initiative was noted.
R3 – PENRO Pampanga – Laudemir S. Salac	Request for training on Urban Forestry (e.g tree surgery, pruning, trimming, etc.) We should have an expert in Urban Forestry.	FMB to enhance and draft Urban Forestry Programs which includes establishment of tree parks and capacity building of the implementers.

Issues/Concerns/Suggestions Raised in the Chatbox during the Virtual Meeting


Concerned Official	Issues/Concerns/Suggestions
R10 – CENRO Valencia City – Felicisimo C. Escudro, Jr.	Inclusion of harvesting guidelines under NGP.
R4B – CENRO Puerto Princesa City – Felizardo B. Cayatoc	Can the original species planted be replaced by other indigenous species on the enhancement of graduated NGP sites? What tenurial instruments shall be issued for those established NGP sites outside tenured areas but within forestland?
R13 – Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division	Some CBFM agreements will soon be terminated and the IPs are threatening the POs not to allow CBFM renewal due to the interest to have it titled. Is there a policy to secure the PO's interests?
R13 – Regional Executive Director – Nonito M. Tamayo	What should be done with IFMA areas which are abandoned by the holders when EO 23 was issued? These areas cannot be enrolled under NGP since technically these are still tenured to corporations. These areas are potential areas for NGP. Can production forest areas be declared just like PAs or can production forests be assumed as those outside PAs less the mineral reservations?

Concerned Official	Issues/Concerns/Suggestions
R10 – CENRO Talakag – Arnulfo T. Osio	For revenue sharing scheme of DENR-funded projects, formulate policy or guidelines specifying the share of the beneficiary, government share and share for plantation reestablishment. Enhancing the existing guideline (75%-12.5%-12.5% sharing scheme)
R12 – PENRO Sultan Kudarat – Shalimar A. Disomangcop	Include policy formulation of financial guidelines in complementation on the issued FMB Technical Bulletin in ENGP implementation
R4B – ARDMS – Donna Mayor-Gordove	Explore DBM and COA policies/guidelines on the disposal of government assets as NGP is entered in the books as capital outlay.
CAR – CENRO Calanasan – Melvin P. Ventura (NGP Coordinator)	Seedling production shall be one (1) year ahead before the plantation establishment to produce quality planting materials.
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legal	Revisit the research conducted by ERDB on the evaluation of old reforestation sites to determine the old reforestation project status.
R5 – PENRO Catanduanes – Imelda D. Baltazar	<p>Establish additional clonal nurseries, especially in island provinces, frequently hit by strong typhoons where seed sources are getting scare.</p> <p>Registration of chainsaw should be reduced into short term duration (3-6 months only), covering those intended to be used for cutting trees within private lands and maximum of one (1) year for the chainsaws intended to be utilized within concessions or areas covered with tenurial instrument.</p>
R11 – CENRO Baganga – David L. Fabila, Jr.	Issue a policy that will require MGB certification if the area proposed for ENGP is mineralize or not to make sure that the area will not be subjected to mining operations ten (10) or fifteen (15) years from now.
R3 – PENRO Nueva Ecija	Refocus NGP implementation by adopting by Administration approach since several reforestation projects were successful.
R6 – CENRO Guimbal – Vicente T. Mellizas, Jr.	Conduct enrichment planting on graduated NGP sites with low survival rate and include intercropping other commodities suited to be mixed with the original species.
R2 – Regional Executive Director - Gwendolyn C. Bambalan	Classify potential NGP sites in terms of partners; for production forest, invite private companies/individuals except those located within CBFM areas while for protection forest, it will be by administration since most of PAs have PAMOs to oversee the NGP sites.
CAR – CENRO Pinukpuk – Imelda B. Casiwan	<p>Consider either by family approach or by administration for the enhancement of 2011 NGP sites.</p> <p>Craft a policy for the awarding of tenurial instruments of successful graduated NGP sites, aside from CBFMA, we could revive the issuance of Certificate of Stewardship Contracts for the individuals who are also outside CBFM areas.</p>


Way-forward:

1. Refocused ENGP objectives will be implemented next year (CY 2022) and planting should start in May, if possible.
2. Submission of geotagged photos of Old Reforestation projects and new projects.
3. Highlight Old Reforestation Projects for the appreciation in the Congress.
4. Disseminate discussion on the meeting and supervise personnel to improve survival rate.
5. Maximize areas for wood production as this is the major intention other than fruit trees.
6. Field Offices to submit additional issues and concerns in writing through proper channels.

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